Employees' Provident Fund deposits is decided by the Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. Government have not received any proposal from the Board on the rate of interest for the year 2007-08.

(d) No date for the meeting of the Board has been fixed on this issue.

Amendment to Industrial Disputes Act

1789. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Industrial Disputes Act to accommodate a grievance redressal committee in the industrial units that have 20 or more employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In accordance with requirement of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) that changes in labour laws must take place after consultation with the industry and trade unions, Ministry of Labour and Employment has held tripartite consultations and formulated certain draft proposals for amendment in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The draft proposals are at the stage of consultation with the Central Ministries/Departments.

Strikes by workers in public and private sector

1790. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is correct to say that the total number of strikes by the workers during 2006 in public sector and private sector are 111 and 329 respectively;

(b) if so, how do they compare with the total number of strikes during 2004 and 2005;

(c) what are all the broad causes for such strikes; and

(d) what are the extra steps taken to ensure industrial peace and good labour management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Labour Bureau, Shimla, which compiles the figures of strikes in the country, have furnished the following figures of strikes in public and private sector during 2004, 2005 and 2006:

Year	2004		2005		2006 (Provisional)	
	Public	Pvt.	Public	Pvt.	Public	Pvt.
Strikes	47	189	56	171	88	158

(c) Broad causes for such strikes are Wages and Allowances, Personnel, Retrenchment, Lay-off, Indiscipline, Violence, Leave and hours of work/Shift working, Bonus, Inter/Intra union rivalry, Gherao, Non-implementation of agreements, awards etc., Charter of demands, Work load, Surplus labour, Betterment of amenities, Suspension/change of manufacturing process, Stanting order/rules/ service condition/safety measures etc.

(d) Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) of Ministry of Labour and Employment continuously makes efforts to maintain harmonious industrial relations in the central sphere establishments.

Revised integrated housing scheme for beedi workers

1791. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many beedi workers have been benefited under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to do away with the deposit of Rs. 5,000/- by the beedi workers or to sanction interest free loan to them for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A total number of 29,672 houses for beedi workers were sanctioned since inception of the scheme in May, 2005.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal, at present, to do away with the deposit of Rs. 5000/- by the beedi workers or to sanction interest-free loan to them for the purpose. However, the contribution of Rs. 5,000/- by the worker need not be deposited along with the submission of application and can be deposited after the houses are accorded administrative approval but before the release of 1st instalment of Rs. 20,000/- towards subsidy. This amount of Rs. 5,000/- as workers' contributions would be released to them with the 2nd instalment of Rs. 20,000/- when the houses reach roof level.

Law for preventing engagement of children below 11 years as labourers

†1792. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to enact a law for preventing engagement of children labour below the age of 11 years as labourers;

(b) whether lakhs of children would be rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to formulate any scheme to rehabilitate these children or provide means of alternative income before the enactment of any such law; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.